

the RARS

Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

December 2005, Number 417

Red Cross First Aid Communications at the State Fair

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Photo by
Gary KN4AQ

The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

EXCITER EDITOR: **Denyse Walter**
 K4DAW
 919-468-5358
 k4daw@nc.rr.com



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: **Andy Peterson NI4S**
 919-845-6251
 ni4s@arrl.net

VICE-PRESIDENT **Dick Bitner W8HYD**
 919-872-6802
 ncsol@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY: **Dick Orander KD4ISC**
 919-469-5322
 kd4isc@arrl.net

TREASURER: **Greg Seamster KE4PAX**
 919-859-0029
 ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



FRONT COVER:

Jim KB4BZ and Bruce KC4UQN were two of many that helped with the State Fair communications during the week of October 14-23. A special thank you to all that took a shift or two at the 2005 fair.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: *Every first Tuesday of the Month*
Location: *Forest Hills Baptist
Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark
Avenue, in Raleigh*
Time: *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a
bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat
donuts.*

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

*The Exciter goes to the printer the first
Monday after the general meeting.
Electronic mailing is the same week.
Printing and mailing may vary.*

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday
evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm
RARS net

RARS DUES

**You can pay RARS dues online at the RARS
website: www.rars.org, or send a check to
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606**

Announcements



NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, December 6, 2005 7:00 pm
FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



FIELD DAY RESULTS

The 2005 Field day results are out and we placed 3rd in 7A, only 600 points behind the leader. We had the most qso's of any station in 7A.

I checked our standing nationally and we were 61st overall and 26th nationally for number of qsos'.

Thanks again for all your good work, and I look forward to seeing all of you out there next year.
Neal N4HAF

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Bill W1REP	Al KE4IHx
Jim KG4ZWS	Steve KB4HDQ
Rod KI4LSN	Bill W1REP
Pete KI4LWQ	
Chris Thomson	waiting for callsign

NEW NET STARS are Back

State University has started their nets back. Sunday 7:00pm on the 145.13 repeater! Pete KI4LWQ is the net control and the person to contact. Welcome back STARS!!

NEWS HOUR

For those interested, the most recent 4 editions of the RARS News Hour audio is now available on line at http://www.wa4bpj.com/Ham_Radio/RARS_News_Hour/RARS_News_Hour.htm Each week, I'll post the current news hour file and keep the most recent four. Each file is about 8 MB and the playing time is approximately 45minutes. 73, Mike, WA4BPJ

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

ONLINE EXCITER

Check out the online Exciter for more on the auction and more pictures. www.rars.org/exciter

HAMFEST CALENDAR

January 7, 2006	Winston-Salem, NC
February 19*	Richmond, VA
February 25	Elkin, NC
March 11-12	Charlotte, NC
April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15	Morganton, NC
April 23	RALEIGH, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC
May 20	Williamston, NC
May 19-21	Dayton, OH
May 20	Greenville, NC
May 27*	Durham, NC

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed



Minutes of the RARS General Meeting November 1, 2005

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 1, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Guests were asked to introduce themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

Andy NI4S announced that Ed Stephenson, AB4S, had become a silent key. Ed was a former RARS member and active in the Cary Amateur Radio Club.

Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, announced that RARS is participating in this year's ARRL Toy Drive by collecting money and checks to help children in the areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Monetary donations can be dropped in the gift box at the back of the room or collected at the November 8 RARS dinner. They can also be mailed to Selene (address available on the www.rars.org website). All donations must be received by November 21.

Andy NI4S announced that there will be a Skywarn dinner held on Thursday, November 03, at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. Jeff Orrock, KI4KKX, will provide a presentation on winter weather forecasting. A basic Skywarn spotter training class will be held on Saturday, November 12, at the Cisco Campus at RTP from 9am – 11am. Directions and additional information can be found at the www.ccskywarn.net website.

Next month's December 6 meeting will be the annual holiday celebration. The start time will be moved to 7pm.

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, provided the Treasurer's report. There are 245 members of RARS. A donation was made to Hospice in memory of RARS member John Swain, W4JPS. Another donation was made by the club to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, reported that radio support coverage for the Red Cross at the NC State Fair went well this year. He thanked all of those who volunteered their time and noted the extra time and effort put in by Mike George, AI4KR and Jim McRight, KB4BZ. Chuck then announced the following candidates as recommended from the nominating committee:

- * Officers for two year terms:
- * President – Dick Bitner W8HYD
- * Secretary – Dick Orander KD4ISC
- * Officer for one year term (completing the term vacated by Dick Bitner W8HYD):
- * Vice President - Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- * Board Members for one year term:
- * Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ

- * RARS 2006 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- * RARS Exciter Editor – Denyse Walter K4DAW
- * RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- * At-Large Director – Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL
- * At-Large Director – Jim Walter K4FIJ
- * FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- * RARS Membership Chair – Denyse Walter K4DAW
- * ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- * W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- * Committee Chairmen:
- * RARS 2006 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- * RARS VE Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- * RARS Webmaster – Jon Kerfoot KG4ZVT

Chuck then opened the floor for any additional nominations. With nothing heard, a motion was made by Charles Swindell, WB4DCM, for the Secretary to record a unanimous vote for the recommended nominees. Hank Montgomery, K4HM, provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

The floor was given to Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX, who provided an update on the RARS / ARRL sponsored ham shack and program at Powell Elementary School. Steve reported there are three goals for the students and amateur radio at the school: offer (Technician) classes, set up a ham station and provide ham radio demonstrations. Anyone interested in helping with the students and the many aspects of ham radio are encouraged to contact Steve.

Johnnie Mayfield, WA9SZL, asked anyone with information about the Kenwood TS-520S radio that was for sale at last month's auction to please contact him. He also reported on his experiences in helping out with the recent Jamboree on the Air activities.

The floor was given to Ray Vasquez, K4RMV, who provided an interesting program on RF safety.

Door prizes were won by Charlie Brown, W4VFJ and Greg Seamster, KE4PAX.

Attendance: 47

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

Note: This issue of the Exciter includes a current membership roster. The roster has been removed from the on-line version.

**Minutes of the RARS
General Meeting for October 2005**

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on the alternate date of October 11, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Guests were asked to introduce themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC, made the following announcements:

- Dr. John Swain, W4JPS, became a Silent Key on September 24. John was a RARS member and regular participant in the 8pm net. His memorial service will be held on October 15 at 1pm at the Cremation Society of the Carolinas on Milbrook Road.
- The MS-150 was held on September 10 and 11 in New Bern. Hams from the Raleigh area made up about half of the 40 plus radio operators required to cover this mammoth bike ride. Dick praised the coordinating efforts of Bruce N8UTY and asked those who participated in the event to raise their hands and be recognized by the group.
- The Autism Ribbon Run was held in downtown Raleigh on October 8. Ron Ford W4RJF coordinated about 10 hams who provided communications support for this event. Dick noted that about half of the volunteers were new hams or first time public service participants. He then asked those who covered the event to raise their hands and be recognized by the group with a round of applause.
- The Inside-Out 10K run will be held on Sunday, October 23 beginning at 7am at Umstead Park. The event is being coordinated by Bill Cole, KG4CXY. More information can be found at the www.hampublicservice.org website.

David Crawford, KF4VXJ, announced that the next ARES net would include a simplex test. The net meets every Thursday evening on the 146.88 repeater following the PCTN net.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, provided a report from the nominating committee. The following candidate recommendations were announced:

- Officers for two year terms:

- Digital print-on-demand
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- President – Dick Bitner W8HYD
- Secretary – Dick Orander KD4ISC
- Officer for one year term:
- Vice President - Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Board Members for one year term:
- Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS 2006 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- RARS Exciter Editor – Denyse Walter K4DAW
- RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- At-Large Director – Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL
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- W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- Committee Chairmen:
- RARS 2006 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- RARS VE Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White A4GIR
- RARS Webmaster – Jon Kerfoot KG4ZVT

The nominating committee is still reviewing candidates for the Public Service Director and Education Director positions. Nominations from the floor will be taken prior to the election at next month's meeting.

Chuck then announced that there are still openings to work as radio operators at the Red Cross base station during the State Fair. The fair runs from October 14 – 23. Work shifts are 9am – 2pm, 2pm – 7pm and 7pm – 12am. Contact Chuck at 872-6555 or k4hf@arrl.net.

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX provided an impromptu Treasurer's report and advised there are 270 members of RARS. He reported that he would be available during the meeting to answer any questions about the club's assets.

The floor was given to Cliff Broughton, AG4XR, who conducted the annual auction.

Attendance: 44 Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC RARS Secretary

DOCUSOURCE

relax; **docu**source it.

Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting September 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on September 20, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Andy Peterson, NI4S, Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Chuck K4HF, the August Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

- The October general meeting will be the annual auction. The meeting will start at 7pm with setup beginning at 6pm.
- The November meeting will be an RF safety class and an update on the Powell Elementary school station that is sponsored by RARS and the ARRL.
- The December holiday meeting will feature the IBM singers again this year.

Committee Reports

Education – Dick W8HYD reported there is no reliable location yet for future technician classes. There is still plenty of interest in a future class.

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT advised that updates to the web page are being made as they are received.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported that the first meetings for next year's fest will be held on September 26. All of the committee chairs from last year have signed on again. Denyse K4DAW has volunteered to be an assistant chairperson. Hank also advised that the Fairgrounds are in the process of re-evaluating their service charges.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported that coverage for the MS-150 in New Bern went well this year. There was a good turnout of hams from the Raleigh area as well as down east. He reported that Ron Ford W4RJJF has stepped up to coordinate the Autism Ribbon Run and that there are still open positions for that event. Dick advised there has been no one to volunteer to coordinate the State Fair coverage yet this year. There have been several people sign up as non-coordinator help. A lengthy discussion followed on how to provide coverage for this event.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised the ARRL is assisting in coordinating hams for communications support for the hurricane Katrina relief effort. He also suggested the club consider another donation to the Spectrum Defense Fund. It was decided to address this suggestion under the new business portion of the meeting.

The Treasurer's report was read by Andy NI4S. There are now 241 members of RARS. It was also noted that during the last meeting, \$176 was collected for the ham family that RARS is helping out.

At-large – Selene KG4RMT noted that the church is advertising a big event on October 4 and is curious if this will affect our general meeting. Andy NI4S will check the scheduling with the church.

Nominating committee – Chuck K4HF reported that the

nominating committee has met and is recommending the following candidates for this year's election:

- Vice President – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Secretary – Dick Orander KD4ISC
- PIO – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- Hamfest Chairperson – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- Exciter Editor – Denyse Walter K4DAW
- Net Manager Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- At-large Director – Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL
- At-large Director - Jim Walter K4FIJ
- FM Repeater Chairperson – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- Membership Chairperson – Denyse Walter K4DAW
- ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- W4DW W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- Field Day Chairperson – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- VE Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- Webmaster – Jon Kerfoot KG4ZVT

The committee is still reviewing candidates for the positions of President, Education Director, At-large Director and Public Service Coordinator.

Unfinished Business

Dick W8HYD advised he is coordinating the delivery of the food and money that was collected at the last general meeting to the local ham family in need of assistance. He has also taken care of the honorary membership certificates for Bob and Marian Breyer (K1RCB and K1MRB).

New Business

Chuck K4HF made a motion for the club to make a \$250 donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. A second was provided by Jon KG4ZVT and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Andy NI4S reported that all of the formal ARRL paperwork has been taken care of for the Powell elementary school ham station. He also advised that Larry Royster KI4FYR has mentioned that he is considering the start of another school station.

Larry KI4FYR has provided a memorandum of understanding for RARS to consider. This MOU establishes the availability of local repeaters to be used as needed for emergencies, back up net locations, etc. After much discussion, it was decided that no action was needed since the ideas underlined by the document are already reflected by the spirit of amateur radio in our local community and are incorporated in the use and availability of RARS repeaters.

General Comments

Bernard W4BRB reported that the Department of Labor may be setting and enforcing rules for working on towers. It is not known how this may affect hams and their towers. It is certainly a rule making area that needs to be monitored.

Hank K4HM made comments on all of the positive feedback he receives about our hamfest social dinner. This is really a plus with our hamfest dealers. He passed along kudos to Mary Jo K4MJL for her work in coordinating this important part of our hamfest.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

MEET THE MEMBERS



Name: Mary Holtschneider
 Callsign: KG4OQA
 Residence: Durham, NC

When and Why I became a ham: I became a ham in July 2001 and tested at the Cary Hamfest. I then went on to get my General in November 2001 at the Jarsfest and my Extra in March 2002 at the Kinston Hamfest. I had a brother WA2TGQ (now a silent key), who was a ham when we were kids and I was always interested in the hobby. He exclusively did Morse code.

My husband and I sold things at the flea market tables at several hamfests and I became re-interested in the hobby, so I got my license.

Equipment: I have 2 HT's, ICOM 740.

Oher Hobbies: Hang gliding, scuba diving, caving. I'm also learning to fly helicopters. I'm on the national board of directors for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

I am net manager for the RARS nightly 8:00pm nets on 146.64.

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7th ANNUAL AUTISM RIBBON RUN

Al
KE4IHX,
Dick
KD4ISC
and
Ronnie
W4RJF.



Lilly
KC4AYH,
Robin
KI4LEC, Al
KE4IHX,
Dick
KD4ISC,
Charlie
WB4DCM,
Chuck
K4HF and
Clark
KG4SWN.

On October 8 the Autism Society of North Carolina ran its 7th Annual Ribbon Run. RARS was there to provide communication and lend an encouraging hand. We arrived about 8 in the morning and the 5K race was completed by 10:00. Communications were carried out on simplex. We were deployed on the northern edge of the route and found that using the crossband radio gave us greater coverage. We were able to help keep track of where the runners were on the course and when it was time to begin to reopen streets to regular traffic. There were also the support personnel such as Starbucks and Brueggers Bagels which we were invited to enjoy along with the participants.

Photos by Steve KJ4BX & Lillian KC4AYH